

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJ: CONCERN OF FOREIGN BUSINESS COMMUNITY OVER SECURITY

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9171

1. THE EMBASSY IS COMMENDED FOR ITS EFFORTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERS TO TAKE ALL FEASIBLE MEASURES TO HELP ASSURE THE SECURITY OF AMERICANS IN ARGENTINA IN THE FACE OF THE SERIOUS SECURITY SITUATION EXISTING THERE. RE ACTION REQUESTED IN PARA 9 OF REFTEL, WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR ORFILA WHO IS FULLY AWARE OF THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF RECENT TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST AMERICANS AND HAS SO INFORMED HIS GOVERNMENT. ORFILA HAS ALSO MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS HERE IN WHICH HE STATES GOA HAS OFFERED PROTECTION TO FOREIGN FIRMS REQUESTING IT.

2. WE ASSUME EMBASSY AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY CONSIDER THAT REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM THAT GOA IS TAKING SUCH AS USE OF GENDARMERIE AND CREATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO COMBAT TERRORISM MAY PROVE EFFECTIVE. RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT PERON PRESUMABLY ALSO HAVE BEEN REASSURING TO FOREIGN COMMUNITIES. IN OUR
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CONVERSATIONS WITH ORFILA WE HAVE BEEN MINDFUL OF THE ADDED

COMPLICATIONS THAT WOULD ARISE IF OUR APPROACHES ON
TERRORISM WERE TO BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND SUBJECT TO
INTERPRETATION AS UNWARRANTED PRESSURES ON ARGENTINA ON
A DIFFICULT INTERNAL PROBLEM. IN ADDITION TO OBJECTIVE
CITED IN REFTEL, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT IT IS THE
TERRORISTS' GOAL TO ATTEMPT TO MANEUVER THE PERON
GOVERNMENT INTO A POLITICALLY DIFFICULT PUBLIC POSITION
OF SIDING WITH FOREIGN /EXPLOITERS" AGAINST "PATRIOTIC"
ARGENTINES. WE BELIEVE ANOTHER PROBABLE TERRORIST AIM
IS TO BRING ABOUT FOREIGN "INTERFERENCE" AND PRESSURES
ON GOA AS A MEANS OF FUTHER POLARIZING ALREADY RADICALIZED
ARGENTINE ATMOSPHERE. SINCE WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE
THAT FOREIGN PRESSURES WILL OBLIGE GOA TO MAKE WHAT IS
ESSENTIALLY A DIFFICULT INTERNAL POLITICAL DECISION AND
COULD HAVE THE REVERSE EFFECT, WE DO NOT THINK IT ADVISABLE
TO MAKE THE TYPE OF DEMARCHE SUGGESTED BY THE EMBASSY BUT
WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS HERE TO MOVE GOA TOWARDS FACING
UP TO TERRORIST PROBLEM IN MANNER MOST LIKELY TO BE
EFFECTIVE. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT PRIVATE FOREIGN FIRMS
WILL CONTINUE TO POINT OUT TO ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES THE
SIGNIFICANE OF THE TERRORIST PROBLEM TO ARGENTINA'S
FUTURE.
KISSINGER

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